

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 of the application have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of the combined disclosures of the U.S. Patent of Easley et al. No. 5,356,407 and the U.S. Patent of Murphy-Chutorian et al. No. 5,855,577.

Without admitting to any merit of the rejection of claims 1-5, claims 1-5 have been cancelled herein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-16 of the application have been allowed.

Claims 6-8 of the application have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However, claims 6-8 have not been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 6-8 have also been indicated as being allowable apparently if amended to include all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims.

Claim 6 has been amended herein to include all of the subject matter of dependent claim 5 from which claim 6 depended, and to include all of the subject matter of independent claim 1 from which claim 5 depended. It is therefore believed that amended claim 6 is allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2-4 pending in the application have been amended herein to depend from new independent claim 6. It is therefore believed that claims 2-4 are allowable.

Claim 7 has been amended herein to include all of the subject matter of claim 1 from which claim 7 depended. It is therefore believed that amended claim 7 is allowable.

Claim 8 depends from new independent claim 7. It is therefore believed that claim 8 is allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments presented herein, claims 2-4 and 6-16 currently pending in the application are allowable over the prior art.

Respectfully submitted,

Thompson Coburn LLP

By: Joseph M. Rolnicki
Joseph M. Rolnicki
Reg. No. 32,653
One US Bank Plaza
St. Louis, MO 63101-1693
(314) 552-6286